

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN  
COMMISSION FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS -

The opening of the second Meeting of the Latin-American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products of FAO was held in Lima, Perú, on November 14, 1949.

The following persons were present:

- BOLIVIA:** Mr. Franz RUCK Uriburu, First Secretary of the Bolivian Embassy in Lima.
- CHILE:** Mr. José HERRERO LOPEZ, Chief of the Forestry Department of the Chilean Government.
- EL SALVADOR:** Mr. Ramón LOPEZ JIMENEZ, Minister of the Republic of El Salvador in Lima.
- FRANCE:** Mr. Pierre BURTHE-MIQUE, Commercial Attaché of the Embassy of France in Lima.  
Mr. Paul BENA, Chief of Waters and Forests Service in French Guiana.
- GREAT BRITAIN:** Mr. G. F. HILLER, First Commercial Secretary of the British Embassy in Lima.
- NICARAGUA:** Mr. Noel Ernesto PALLAIS, Minister of Nicaragua in Lima.
- PARAGUAY:** Mr. Renato Moreno Gonzalez, Counsellor of the Embassy of Paraguay in Lima.
- PERU:** Mr. Jorge SUCCAR RAHME, Chemical Engineer.  
Mr. Ernesto NORIEGA, Engineer. - Director of Colonization and Forestry. - Ministry of Agriculture.  
Mr. Teobaldo UGARTE, Director of Statistics-Ministry of Finance.  
Mr. Juan B. CABRERIZO, Industrial Engineer. - Chief of Department of Standards. - Ministry of Public Works.  
Mr. Carlos MARTINEZ CLAURE, Asst. Director of Colonization and Forestry. - Ministry of Agriculture.  
Mr. E. W. HADLEY, Director of the Tingo María Agricultural Experiment Station.  
Mr. Hans PLATENIUS, Technical Adviser of the Tingo María Agricultural Experiment Station.  
Mr. Ramón REMOLINA, Manager of the Peruvian Corporation of the Amazon.  
Mr. Flavio BAZAN, Chief of the Department of Forest Statistics. Ministry of Agriculture.  
Mr. J. A. CIURLIZZA, Industrialist.  
Mr. Fernando GALVAN, Forester. - Ministry of Agriculture.  
Mr. Carlos STOLZEMBACH, In charge of Statistics at the Division of Colonization. - Ministry of Agriculture.  
Mr. J. Alberto BARRERA, Asst. Director of the Tingo María Agricultural Experiment Station.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Mr. Rafael PEREZ HENRIQUEZ, Secretary of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Lima.
- U.S.A.** Mr. Henry S. BOSWORTH, Director of the Tropical Experiment Station. - Puerto Rico.
- VENEZUELA:** Mr. Hugo ROJAS MONCADA, Chargé d' Affairs of Venezuela in Lima.

- ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES Mr. L. R. HOLDRIDGE, Ecologist, Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. - Turrialba. - Costa Rica.
- I.R.O. Mr. Charles WENDLING, Permanent Delegate in Buenos Aires.
- I.L.O. Mr. Alejandro DESMAISON, Permanent Delegate in Lima.
- S.C.I.P.A. Mr. Edwin ANDERSON. - Specialist in Tropical Agriculture.
- Mr. Jorge SUCCAR RAHME, President of the Sub-Committee for Forestry and Forest Products of FAO'S National Committee in Perú and Member of the Peruvian Delegation, was unanimously elected President of the Latin American Commission. The Delegates proceeded then to adopt the project of Agenda submitted by the Secretariat.

II - STATUS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission gave its approval to the Status and Rules of Procedure prepared by the Regional Office and requests the Director General of FAO to communicate them to the Annual Conference.

The Status and Rules of Procedure having been adopted, they become by this fact the official governing documents of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products.

II PROJECT FOR A LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

After a careful study of the organization of the Institute, submitted by the Regional Office, the Commission gave its approval to the project considering that it is essential for the study and solution of the Forestry problems of Latin America and extended a vote of congratulations to the Author of the project for the quality of its content.

The Commission made the following recommendations:

1. That the location of the Central Institute and the Regional Stations be made with due consideration to technical reasons, as well as the cooperation offered by Governments and established organizations.
2. That the regional programs be developed taking full advantage of facilities that can be made available by organizations established in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean area and South America. To this end, those organizations should be requested by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report the facilities they can offer and the extent to which they can cooperate in the execution of regional programs. This knowledge will permit the prompt initiation of important projects. The Executive Secretary is therefore requested to make the necessary contacts with Governments and Institutions in order to obtain and materialize offers that will permit the location of the Central Institute and of those Regional Stations whose location has not yet been decided.

3. That the establishment of a Regional Station in the Caribbean area be considered. To this end it requests the Executive Secretary to make the necessary contacts with the Caribbean Commission in order to know the possibilities of its cooperation in the accomplishment of this project.

The Latin-American Commission has received, so far the following definite offers for the establishment of Regional Stations:

- a) From the Government of Chile to establish the Southern Andes Station.
- b) From the Government of Perú to establish the Tropical Andes Station.

The Commission has accepted these offers, expressing its sincere appreciation to both Governments for their generous gestures.

Furthermore the Commission was pleased to acknowledge the offer made by the Government of Nicaragua of 2,000 hectares of forest lands for the purpose of establishing a Regional Station in that country. It was also pleased to note the declaration made by the Delegate of the Dominican Republic pledging his Government for financial help in the creation and functioning of the Institute.

The Commission studied the proposition made by the Ecuadorean Delegation at the Regional Conference of FAO held at Quito regarding the creation of a Latin American Institute of Soil Conservation and Reforestation. This proposition will be presented to the Fifth Session of the FAO Conference. The Commission was of the opinion that the problems of soil conservation are of enormous importance in Latin America and that their study must be undertaken with great urgency. With the purpose of speeding these realizations and of achieving at the same time administrative simplification, technical coordination and better use of financial resources, the Commission believes that it would be preferable to avoid multiplication of Latin American Institutes and that the problems of soil conservation could be studied at the Institute of Forest Research and Education, whose organization can take care of all the needs under consideration. As soil conservation problems have, besides their forestry aspects, a very definite agricultural aspect, the Commission believes that if the creation of a single Institute is decided upon, a Division of Soil Conservation within the Institute should enjoy the necessary technical autonomy.

### III - DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTION AND LUMBER TRADE

After studying the development plans for forest production and lumber trade in Latin America, the Commission noted with great interest the decisions taken at Havana during the second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) concerning these matters. The collaboration proposed between both international organizations, on a regional level, should give practical results and therefore it should be materialized as soon as possible. It is particularly for this reason that the members of the Commission deeply regret the absence of ECLA representatives at this meeting.

- 1) The Commission wishes that the investigation of equipment needs be continued by the Regional Office and that investigations be pursued further in Latin America, Europe and North America to disclose possibilities of finding sources of equipment technically adapted to the Region and obtainable in good terms of delivery and price.

The Commission states that the initiative taken by the division of Forestry and Forest Products of making a world catalog of forestry equipment, deserves to be praised and hopes that this catalog can be made available soon to the interested people for this Continent. The Commission also request the Regional Office to continue in its efforts to obtain a more diversified production from Latin-American machinery manufacturers. Furthermore, the Office is requested to obtain, mainly from European countries, specific data on specifications, quantities and prices of available equipment. The contacts to be made with interested firms should consider, if necessary, possibilities of financing those purchases.

- 2) With regard to the formulation of development plans for some countries, the Commission request the Regional Office to continue, as actively as possible, its program of technical assistance to those Governments and public or private Agencies that might request it. The Commission wants to emphasize its belief that technical assistance extremely useful and should constitute one of the main tasks of the Regional Office.
- 3) With the purpose of affording a satisfactory solution to Commercial problems as well as preparing with due anticipation permanent markets for Latin American forest products, the Commission recommends to FAO to maintain close contacts with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and with the joint ECE - FAO Timber Committee and to cooperate with Latin American and European commercial firms so they can establish the necessary contacts. The commission would like to be permanently informed, through the Rio de Janeiro Office, of necessities and possibilities in Europe, so as to orientate its action in the proper direction. At the same time, Latin-American countries would like to be informed about the possibilities and necessities of each one so as to facilitate an interchange of wood and forest products. It would, likewise, be desirable that European concerns be permanently informed of the possibilities offered by the Latin-American Continent.

The Commission wishes to point out that the action above mentioned should not be limited to conifer species but should include all Latin-American forest products, principally hardwoods and secondary products which are economically important and could find good markets through a combined action.

In this same field of Commercial activities, the Commission wishes to insist that a request, he made to all Latin American Countries urging them to adopt grading rules as strict as those existing in Europe and North America. These markets are difficult and if they are to be conquered, it is necessary to meet their requirements. To this end, the Commission request the Regional office to obtain and distribute the rules actually operating in the various importing countries.

- 4) Considering that maritime freight is one of the main problems and that existing rates are an obstacle in lumber trade, the Commission recommends the Regional Office to make the necessary contacts with the International Freight Commission and CEPAL, in order to consider the possibility of reduction of rates for lumber and forest products.

5. Finally, considering the project to establish pilot units for forest exploitation in different regions of this Continent, the Commission believes that it would be convenient to interest Governments in the financing of preliminary works such as selection of site and preparation of complete projects that would permit recommendations for financing.

In this type of activities, the Regional Office should insure an adequate coordination and exert its permanent action in the fulfillment of the economical and technical ends in view. It should also have a direct and active participation in the preliminary arrangements and try to obtain the cooperation of CEPAL and other organizations.

#### IV STANDARDIZATION

Most of the Latin American countries have officially adopted the metric system in their units of measurement. However, most of these countries employ the board foot as a unit in the lumber trade. In view of this situation the Commission recommends:

- To establish a table of equivalence of both systems for the standardization of measurements of softwoods and hardwoods and that in the future only one system be considered.
- That the Regional Office communicate as soon as possible with the Pan-American Committee of Technical standards so as to achieve the proper coordination of standardization in Latin America.

##### 1: Standardization of dimensions of hardwood lumber

In principle, the standardization should have in view the maximum utilization of the log in terms of commercial sawn lumber. Two categories are considered:

- a) Long lumber of 6 feet or more in length and 6 inches or more in width.
- b) Short lumber of 6 feet or less in length and 6 inches or less in width.

In both types the minimum thickness should be one inch.

Intermediate sizes for both types should vary:

In thickness by half inch.

In width by one inch.

In length by one foot.

The commercial denominations according to dimensions are:

- a) Strip - sawn lumber with a maximum of 2" X 2"
- b) Board - sawn lumber with a maximum of 1" in thickness and having 6" or more in width.
- c) Plank - 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" to 2" in thickness and 8" or more in width
- d) Joist - 2" to 4" in thickness and 3" to 6" in width.
- e) Beam - 4" X 4" as minimum.

With regards to moisture content, three types of wood are considered: Green, air dried and artificially dried. The maximum moisture content allowed for dry wood should be 18%.

Lumber manufacturers should in all cases allow for a slight excess in the dimensions of green lumber so that when dried it will maintain its exact commercial dimensions.

- It is recommended to FAO to undertake research work with different Latin-American woods so as to ascertain this margin of excess in relation with different moisture contents.

- The Commission recommends the Regional Office to establish a log volume table adaptable to the tropical species of Latin America.

### 2. Standardization of dimensions of softwood lumber

The Commission does not consider itself qualified to establish the basis for standardization of softwood lumber, although it has duly considered the projects of standardization submitted by the National Pine Institute of Brazil (Instituto Nacional do Pinho) and of the National Institute of Research and Standards of Chile (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Tecnológicas y Normalización).

The Commission recommends the Latin American countries the adoption of the same standardization systems prevailing in North America and Europe, as it is necessary that these woods be in a position to compete favorably in the softwood world markets.

### 3. Standardization of nomenclature of species

The Commission selected for nomenclature, amongst the commercial species, some of those that have a definite botanical classification.

The commercial names recommended have been selected considering those that have a broader use in the wood market.

The Commission recommends that this work be followed to include all commercial woods. It presents this first list (Annex I) only as a preliminary one which should be followed in each country according to local necessities.

The text that the Commission has consulted for this nomenclature is "Timbers of the New World" by Samuel J. Record and Robert W. Hess.

### FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

The Commission believes that the compilation of good annual statistics should be one of its most important permanent tasks.

After reviewing and analysing the statistical data compiled, the Commission is of the opinion that the set up adopted is adequate. However, in order to speed up the work and attain a higher degree of efficiency in the statistical program, the Commission recommends:

- 1) That the Latin-American countries organize a central service of forestry statistics or at least that they appoint a responsible person to take charge of this work.
- 2) That countries having several services charged with the compilation of forestry statistics, centralize all the data in a single office or person who will communicate directly with FAO through the Regional Office.

A N E X O

Nomenclatura de algunas especies forestales comerciales recomendadas por la Comisión.

Familia	Nombre científico	Nombre comercial recomendado
Araucariaceae	<i>Araucaria brasiliensis</i>	Pino parana
"	<i>Araucaria Araucana</i>	" Araucaria
	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Mangle
Bignoniaceae	<i>Tabebuia pentaphylla</i>	Roble blanco
Bombacaceae	<i>Ochroma</i> spp.	Balsa
Boyraginaceae	<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	Laurel
Combretaceae	<i>Conocarpus erecta</i>	Mangle jefi
Celastraceae	<i>Goupia glabra</i>	Goupi
Cupressaceae	<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>	Alerce
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Aextoxicum punctatum</i>	Olivillo
Fagaceae	<i>Nothofagus procera</i>	Rauli
Fagaceae	<i>Nothofagus dombeyi</i>	Coigüe
Fagaceae	<i>Nothofagus obliqua</i>	Roble pellín
Guttiferae	<i>Calophyllum brasiliense</i>	María
Guttiferae	<i>Symphonia globulifera</i>	Manil
Juglandaceae	<i>Juglans neotropica</i>	Nogal
Lauraceae	<i>Persea lingue</i>	Lingue
Lauraceae	<i>Phebe porosa</i>	Imbuia
Lauraceae	<i>Ocotea rubra</i>	Determa
Lauraceae	<i>Ocotea rodiazi</i>	Greenheart
Leguminosaeae	<i>Dicorynia paraensis</i>	Angélique
Leguminosaeae	<i>Eperua falcata</i>	Vvapa
Leguminosaeae	<i>Mora gongrippi</i>	Morabukea
Leguminosaeae	<i>Peltogyne</i> spp.	Purple heart
Leguminosaeae	<i>Cedrelinga castaneiformis</i>	Cedrolingua
Leguminosaeae	<i>Myroxylon</i> spp.	Balsamo
Magnoliaceae	<i>Drimys Winteri</i>	Canelo
Meliaceae	<i>Cedrela</i> spp.	Cedro
Meliaceae	<i>Carapa guianensis</i>	Carapa
Meliaceae	<i>Switenia macrophylla</i>	Caoba
Meliaceae	<i>Switenia mahogany</i>	Caoba antillana
Monimiaceae	<i>Laurelia aromática</i>	Laurel de Chile
Monimiaceae	<i>Laurelia serrata</i>	Tepa
Moraceae	<i>Brosimum paraense</i>	Pao rainha
Moraceae	<i>Piratinera guianensis</i>	Letter wood
Myristicaceae	<i>Virola surinamensis</i>	Baboun
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Rhizophora Mangle</i>	Mangle
Rubiaceae	<i>Genipa americana</i>	Jagua
Sapotaceae	<i>Manilkara</i> spp.	Balata
Simarubaceae	<i>Simaruba amara</i>	Marupa
Taxaceae	<i>Podocarpus nubigenus</i>	Maño

- 3) That in each country permanent committees be established to guide the statistical work. These committees should be formed by representatives of all agencies interested in the production, Consumption and Commerce of forest products. With the same end in view of attaining greater efficiency in the organization of statistical services in the different countries, the Commission submits to FAO the following suggestions:

- a) That the technical officers of the Regional Office visit frequently the several countries, advising them with due anticipation, so that meetings can be held with local technicians or the committee mentioned under 3) And study specific problems that might have arisen.
- b) That the Regional Office prepare a set of simple and precise instructions on statistical methods to be adopted as a pattern for the interpretation of FAO's questionnaires on forest products statistic.
- c) The Commission suggest that when deemed convenient, FAO organize a course for Latin-American technicians in forestry Statistics and that a preparatory Latin American Conference be called for the standardization of statistical methods.

#### VI - NEEDS OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

The Commission listened with great interest to the statements delivered by Mr. Giorgio SPALAZZI, Counsellor of the Italian Embassy at Lima and Mr. Cesar de la PAZ FOWLER, Coordinator of Immigration Policy of the Peruvian Government, who had been especially invited to collaborate in the Commission's work. Acknowledgement was taken of the interesting proposals formulated by the Governments of Italy and France that disclose the possibilities these countries offer for the recruitment of technical personnel to work in Latin American countries and at the proposed Latin American Institute of Forestry Research and Education.

As the Italian Government has already submitted to the Regional Office a detailed list of technicians available, the Commission recommends that other countries as well as IRO be approached asking them to submit similar lists with sufficient information to permit an easy selection of the required personnel.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the work of the Regional Office, the Commission requests that the inquiry previously undertaken by FAO, concerning the needs of technicians, be reinitiated.

The Commission finally recommends that the Regional Office give this inquiry a wide publicity not only amongst the administrative authorities of the different countries but also amongst private organizations, institutes and industrial concerns.

#### VII - REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR 1949

The Commission adopted the report presented by the FAO, Latin American Office for Forests and Forest Products. This report will be submitted to the Fifth Session of the FAO Conference.



